

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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The following claim set replaces all prior claim set versions.

Claims 1-⁶~~10~~ (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented): A floor covering having an applied composition for imparting soil resistance, stain resistance, and stain release, said floor covering comprising:

(a) a scoured substrate having fibers forming a pile;
(b) a composition applied to said scoured substrate, said composition comprising:

(i) a first fluorochemical repellent component, said fluorochemical repellent component being provided at a concentration of at least about 0.1% SOC;

(ii) a second stain blocking component, said stain blocking component being selected from one or more of the group consisting of: sulfonated novolak resins, acrylic polymers, sulfonated polyester polymers, sulfonated surfactants, fluorochemical agents, acid-containing acrylic or acrylate polymers and copolymers, ethoxylated polyesters, ethoxylated nylon, cellulose derivatives, polyacrylamides, and sulfonated polymers;

(iii) an inorganic particulate component, said inorganic particulate component being selected from the group consisting of: silica-containing materials, zirconium-containing materials, titanium-containing materials, alumina-containing materials, inorganic oxide materials, basic metal salt materials, and metal oxide materials; and

(iv) a hydrophobic cross-linking agent;
wherein said composition is adapted for imparting substantial stain resistance and stain release to said floor covering.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) The floor covering of claim 7 wherein said composition further comprises at least two distinct component types which afford stain release properties to said floor covering.

10. (Original) The floor covering of claim 7 wherein said fibers of said scoured substrate comprise less than about 0.3% by weight oil residue.

11. (Previously Presented): A treated scoured floor covering having applied thereon a composition for imparting soil resistance and stain release to said treated floor covering, said floor covering comprising:

(a) a scoured substrate having a plurality of fibers, said fibers having less than about 0.3% by weight oil residue;

(b) a composition comprising:

(i) a fluorochemical repellent component;

(ii) a stain resist component;

(iii) at least one hydrophilic stain release component which imparts substantial stain release to said substrate; and

(iv) an inorganic particulate component; and

(v) a hydrophobic cross-linking agent.

12. (Original) The treated scoured floor covering of claim 11 in which said composition of said treated scoured carpet further comprises a bleach resistant component.

13. (Original) The treated scoured floor covering of claim 11 wherein said fluorochemical repellent component is provided at a concentration of at least about 0.1% SOC.

14. (Original) The treated floor covering of claim 11 wherein said stain resist component comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of: sulfonated novalak resins, acrylic polymers, sulfonated polyester polymers, and sulfonated surfactants and combinations thereof.

15. (Original) The floor covering of claim 11 wherein said repellent component comprises a hydrophilic fluoroalkyl acrylate copolymer.

16. (Original) The floor covering of claim 11 wherein said stain resist component is selected from the group consisting of: fluorochemical agents, acid-containing acrylic polymers, copolymers, ethoxylated polyesters, ethoxylated nylon, cellulose derivatives, polyacrylamides, sulfonated polymers, and sulfonated polyesters.

17. (Original) The floor covering of claim 11 wherein said floor covering is selected from the group consisting of: bonded carpet, woven carpet, nonwoven carpet, rugs, carpet mats, noncushioned carpets and carpet tiles.

Claims 18 - 49 (Cancelled)

50. (Previously Presented) A scoured carpet having applied thereon a composition for imparting soil resistance, stain resistance, and stain release to said scoured carpet, said composition comprising:

- (a) a first fluorochemical repellent component;
- (b) a second stainblocking component, said stainblocking component being selected from the group consisting of: sulfonated novalak resins, acrylic polymers, sulfonated polyester polymers, sulfonated surfactants, fluorochemical agents, acid-containing acrylic or acrylate polymers, copolymers, ethoxylated polyesters, ethoxylated nylon, cellulose derivatives, polyacrylamides, sulfonated polymers, and sulfonated polyesters, and/or mixtures thereof;

(c) an inorganic particulate component, said inorganic particulate component being selected from the group consisting of: silica-containing materials, zirconium-containing materials, titanium-containing materials, alumina-containing materials, inorganic oxide materials, basic metal salt materials, and metal oxide materials; and

(d) a hydrophobic cross-linking agent;

wherein said scoured carpet exhibits a relative resistance to dry soiling that reflects a color shade change $\Delta\Delta E$ upon soiling and vacuuming in absolute value of about 10 or less.

51. (Previously Presented) A chemically treated fiber-containing scoured floor covering, said floor covering having applied thereon a composition for imparting soil resistance, stain resistance, and stain release to fibers upon the surface of the floor covering, said composition comprising:

(a) a first fluorochemical repellent component;

(b) a second component, said second component being selected from at least one item from the group consisting of: i) sulfonated novolak resins, and ii) acrylic resins, and iii) blends of sulfonated novolak resins and acrylic resins;

(c) an particulate component, said particulate component being selected from the group consisting of: silica-containing materials, zirconium-containing materials, titanium-containing materials, alumina-containing materials, inorganic oxide materials, basic metal salt materials, and metal oxide materials; and

(d) a hydrophobic cross-linking agent;

wherein said chemically treated fiber-containing carpeting exhibits a resistance to dry soiling, $\Delta\Delta E$ value, in absolute terms, of about 20 or less and further shows improvement as compared to untreated floor covering when tested by modified AATCC Test Method 123-2000.